

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-04

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:MAGMICHAUD:RLW

APPROVED BY EA/ANP:CASQUIRE

EA/P:MSMITH

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R 070350Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEW

1. ON FEBRUARY 5 AMBASSADOR JAMES W. HARGROVE MET WITH SEVEN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AND ONE USIA CORRESPONDENT FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES RAISED AND SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR HARGROVE'S RESPONSES.

2. CORRESPONDENTS REPEATEDLY RAISED QUESTION OF POLITICAL APPOINTEE VS. CAREER OFFICER AS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA. AMBASSADOR HARGROVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS APPOINTMENT DID NOT CONSTITUTE DOWNGRADING OF AUSTRALIA IN US EYES, NOTING THAT MANY IMPORTANT US EMBASSIES ARE HEADED BY NON-CAREER AMBASSADORS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HIS BUSINESS BACKGROUND WAS HIGHLY RELEVANT TO ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF US-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS, WHICH WOULD, IN HIS VIEW, OUTWEIGH THE POLITICAL ASPECTS.

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3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY TO HANDLE THESE QUESTIONS, NOTING THAT AUSTRALIA AND US SHARE SECURITY INTERESTS AND THAT AUSTRALIA IS UNIQUELY IMPORTANT TO THE US BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RENEGOTIATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR US INSTALLATIONS IN AUSTRALIA, AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THESE ARE JOINT INSTALLATIONS AND SAID HE ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEM.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT OMEGA, AMBASSADOR, NOTING LACK OF STATION IN TASMAN SEA AREA, SAID SYSTEM IS DESIRABLE FOR ALL COUNTRIES, AND THAT STATIONS WOULD BE OPERATED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS.

6. WHEN ASKED IF HIS APPOINTMENT MIGHT BE OF A LAME-DUCK NATURE AND THUS LIMIT HIS EFFECTIVENESS, AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT THIS TO BE A PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE HOPED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE.

7. DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE REPORTING ON PRESS TREATMENT OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** MAGMICAUD:RLW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS INTERVIEW  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, US, (HARGROVE, JAMES W)  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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